

## HOPE.

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At the 3 session of the Sisters' Christian Endeavor Society, the subject for entertainment and instruction was the word *hope*. What do we or can we learn of this word *hope*? Hope is the great illumination in the dark and dreary midnight hour. In the Saxon language *hope* means *hope*, in the German *hoffnung*, the primary sense is to extend, to reach forward. Hope means desire for some good, with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it; or with a belief that it is obtainable. A hope founded on God's gracious promises, is a scriptural sense. A well founded scriptural hope is in our religion the source of ineffable happiness, unspeakable, unutterable. Hope differs from wish and desire in this; it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it. Hope then always gives pleasure or joy. Franklin says, "He that lives on hope will die fasting." Joel in declaring sundry judgments of God exhorteth to observe them, and to mourn. This was about 800 years before Christ, wherein he says the sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall soar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord *will be the hope* of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. Job 13: 15, 16. In Job 8, we find that Job sheweth restlessness, and acknowledgeth God's justice. In speaking of the hypocrite, he says "For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing because our days upon earth are a shadow." So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish; whose hope shall be cut off and whose trust shall be a spider's web. This language was spoken 1520 years before Christ, the same is unchangeable so that the hypocrite's hope to-day is as fruitless as it was in the days of Job. What a blessed thought there is in hope when Job says, "Behold God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doer."

Auspicious hope! In thy sweet garden grow,  
Wreath's for each toil, a calm for every woe.

Hope is an opinion or belief not amounting to certainty, but grounded on substantial evidence. The Christian indulges a hope that his sins are pardoned. Taylor says, "Hope for good success." In first epistle general of Peter 1: 3, we find the great apostle's language as follows, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again

unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Hopes, fondly cherished, come with me to dwell,  
What dainty flowers now deck the halls of thought,

What rainbow hues the future life was fraught,  
And on my heart-strings like sweet music fell.

Hope means to place confidence in, to trust in, with confident expectation of good. Therefore Pope says, "Hope humbly then, with trembling pinions soar." In the 42 Psalm we find how great was the zeal king David had to serve God in the temple. In speaking to the chief musicians he says, "My tears have been my meat day and night while they continually say unto me, where is thy God? Why art thou cast down O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance and my God." When king David made his prayer to be restored to the temple; he used this same language, "O my soul, why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God." Ps. 43. When we go to seek or hunt anything we hope to meet with success. Thus Dryden says,

So stands Thracian herdsman with his spear,  
Full in the gap, and hopes the hunted bear.  
Hope bridges the chasm at the wild mountain-side,  
And youth scales the summit with joy and with pride.

Again in Ezra 10: 2, where Ezra was mourning and assembled his people, when Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing." In Job 10, where Zophar reproveth Job for justifying himself and says, "If iniquity be in thy hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles, but the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up the ghost." In Psalms 78 the Psalmist speaks on this wise, "For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born who should arise and declare them to their children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments." In the use of the proverbs by king Solomon, in an exhortation to fear God and believe his word, had even in this remote time, about 1000 years before Christ an inspira-

tion of hope within his soul. When he says, "As a dog returneth to his vomit so a fool returneth to his folly. Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit, there is more hope of a fool than of him. Oh ye who want to be so wise in your own conceit, take heed, who so diggeth a pit shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a stone it will return upon him." Prov. 26: 12. In Paul's epistle to the Colossians 1: 23-27, uses this language, "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul, am made minister, to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Hope nerveth the arm of the soldier boy brave,  
And brightens the victory, or lights up the grave.

He wieldeth the sword with a heavier blow,  
When hope paints the future in a roseate glow.

Paul when writing to the Hebrews 6: 11, time A. D. 64, remembers that there is hope when he says, "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end. For the law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which we draw nigh unto God." Then we follow Paul, the great apostle, when he writes to Titus 1: 2, he uses this language, "In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie promised before the world began. Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearance of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. That being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." If it were not for hope but few of us were wont to live. When we meet with reverses in life such as crop failure, drouths, frosts, or of the many calamities we must encounter, were it not for a hope we have that the next year will be better, there would be many get so despondent that suicide would be the result. What is there beneath the shining stars to encourage the man who languishes in the State prison for a term of years but a faint hope that at some time something will turn up in his favor to release him. When an army goes into battle if it were not for hope of getting out of the conflict, many would take their own life in the onset, rather than be brutally slaughtered by the enemy. When we come down on a bed of affliction, coming close to death's door, and a skilled physician is called, how eagerly do we listen, and wait to hear if there is hope of recovery. When we leave our homes to go a great distance expecting to